



Federal Ministry
of Transport and
Digital Infrastructure

Pilot projects of the Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration (WSV) for the remediation of pollutants from sediments in the context of traffic maintenance work

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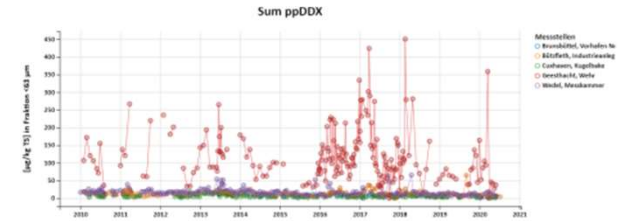
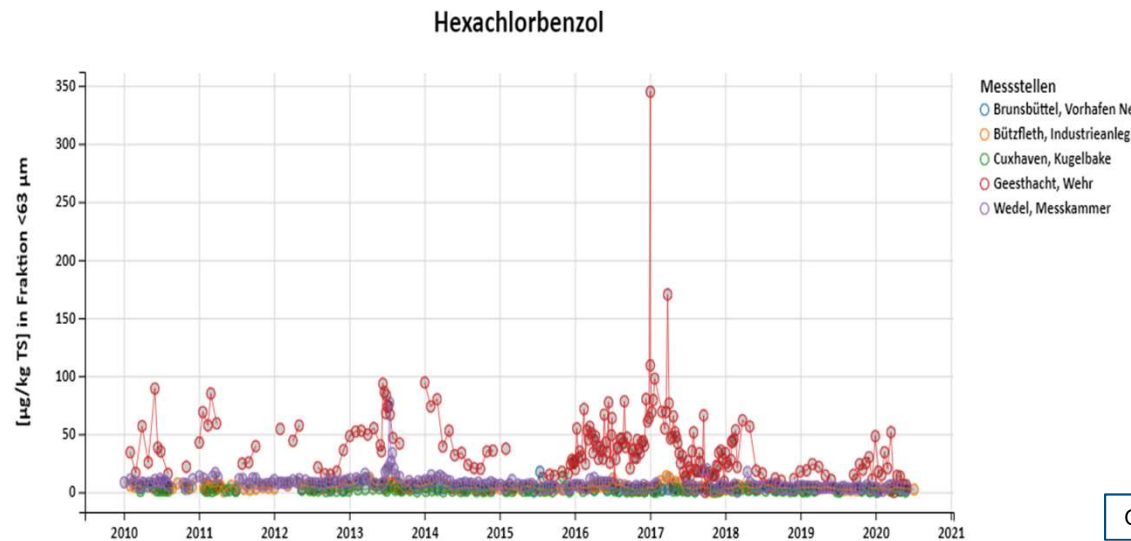
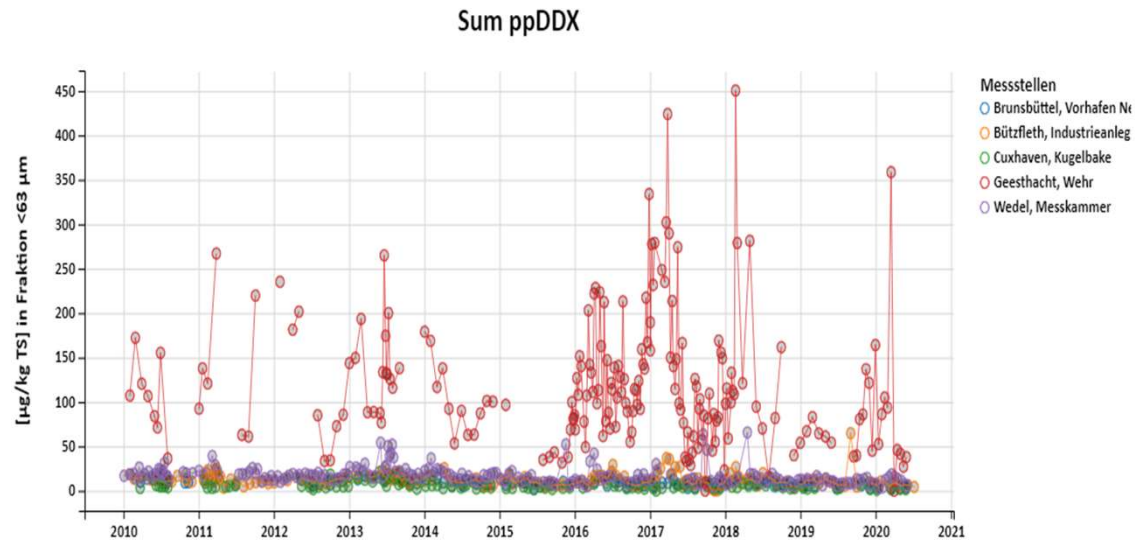


Abb.: BfG/WSV

Trigger for the pilot sediment projects of BMVI/WSV

- Ongoing difficulties in accommodating contaminated dredged material from the Port of Hamburg and the Tidal Elbe
- Also problematic sediment loads in WSV harbours and groyne fields on the Elbe upstream Geesthacht (also handicap for renaturation measures)
- Exceeding indicative values of the guidelines for the placement of dredged material in waterways
- Unsatisfactory progress in terms of sediment load reduction

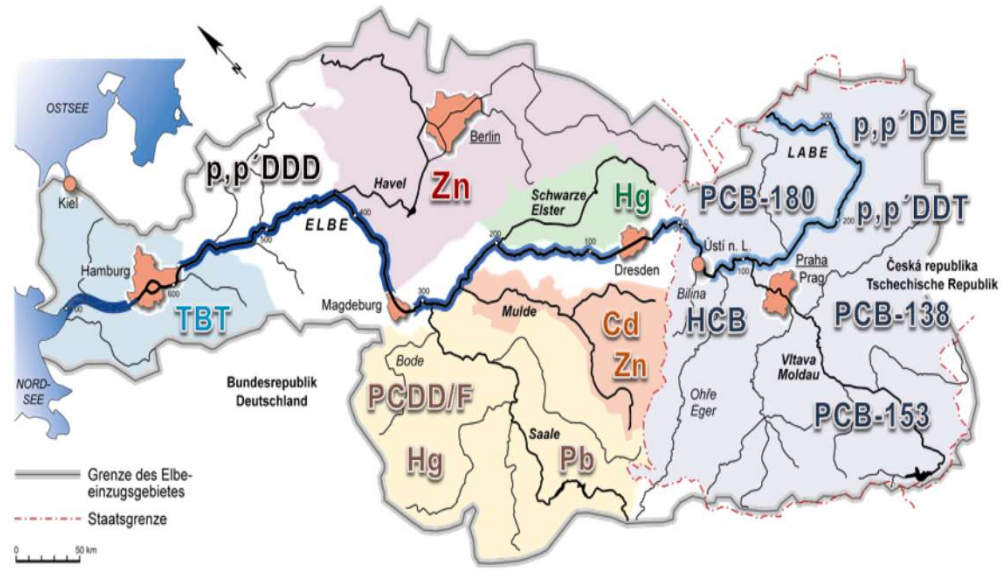
Examples for ongoing sediment contamination (1)



Quelle.: BfG

Examples for ongoing sediment contamination (2)

Contaminants in the Elbe river basin



Schwartz & Carls, Usti 2017

Sediment dilemma in the Elbe river

- On the one hand, only slow progress in the reduction of pollutant loads from upstream – despite many years of WFD
- On the other hand, high expectations on the quality of dredged material with reference to WFD and MSFD requirements
- WFD in general accepts uses like navigation and the required maintenance measures

Tasks of the BMVI/WSV pilot projects (1): Support realisation of measures

These pilot projects are understood as feasibility studies

- Develop forms of cooperation, mutual support within the framework of the respective responsibilities: federal government (traffic-related maintenance of the federal waterway) and the federal states (water quality)
- Investigate and document the planning, implementation and success of pollution remediation measures
- Serve as decision-making aids for future remediation measures
 - a) to contribute to the removal of heavily polluted sediments from the Elbe water system or to prevent the input of polluted sediments into the Elbe
 - b) to simplify the planning and implementation of future similar remediation projects due to their feasibility character
 - c) to bring about synergies between the traffic-related maintenance and the objectives of the Sediment Management Concept (SeMK) of the FGG Elbe and ICPER.

In the sense of joint action, support is required from the federal states.

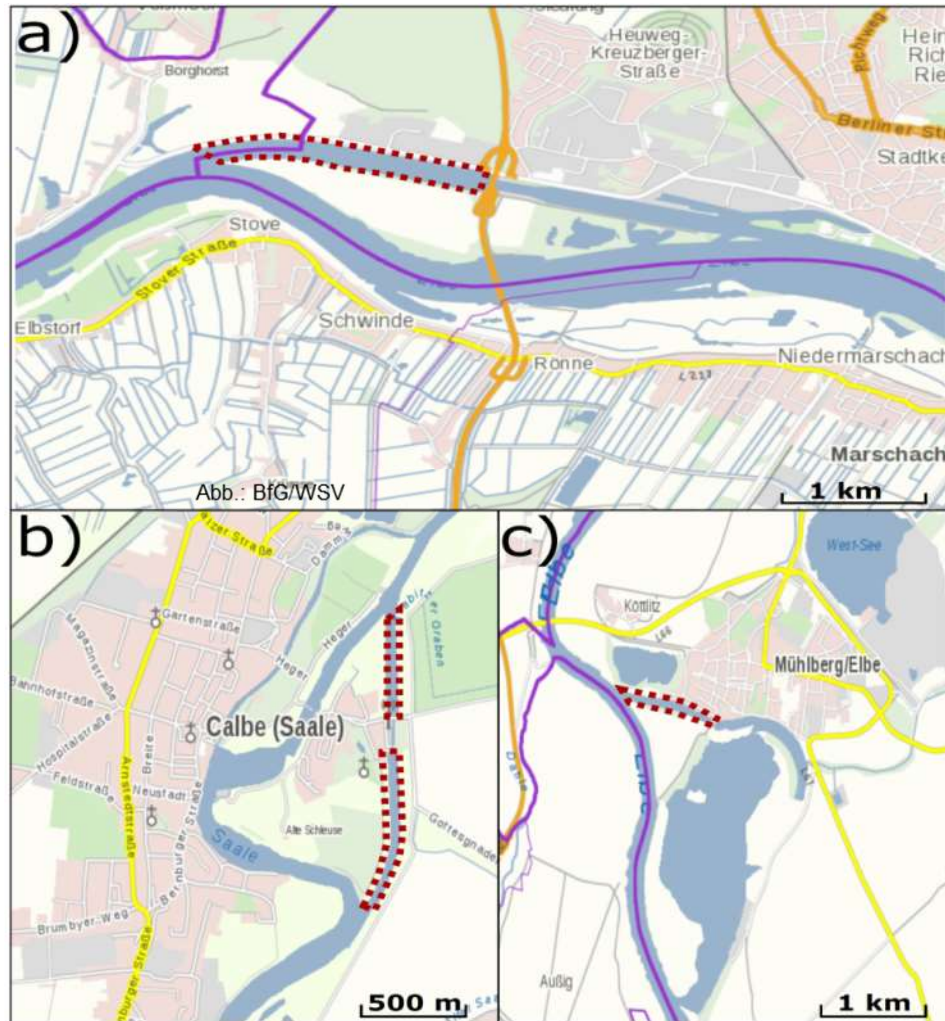
Tasks of the BMVI/WSV pilot projects (2): Support realisation of measures

- Enhance cooperation between federal states and federal authorities
- Intensive agreement on cooperation, coordination of a (temporally) coordinated package of measures with other measures of the federal states
- Investigate and document the planning, implementation and success of pollution remediation measures
- Bring about support (monitoring, disposal pathways)
- Coordination of accompanying monitoring to examine the effectiveness of the measures on water and suspended sediment quality
- Consideration of different planning horizons (short-, medium- and long-term planning) by implementing the projects in the next management period (2022-2027)
- Consideration of the staffing situation of the relevant WSÄ and the relevant authorities of the federal states
- Benefit/cost assessment
- Decision support for future remediation measures

Options for pilot projects (1)



Saale
(e.g. Calbe)



Geesthacht

Mühlberg

Abb.: BfG/WSV

Options for pilot projects (2)

- Removal of fine sediments from outer harbours of locks (Geesthacht, Saale)
- Removal of fine sediments from working harbours of the Waterways administration (Mühlberg)
- as a contribution to the remediation of pollutants, in connection with maintenance dredging that is basically pending
- The quantities of sediment removed within the framework of the pilot projects can be more extensive than directly necessary for current traffic-related maintenance, provided that this is done with the support and participation of the federal states.

Outlook, Perspectives

- With the presentation of the ideas for the Elbe pilot projects two years ago, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) clearly expressed its intention to support the implementation of the sediment management concepts of the ICPER and FGG Elbe within the scope of its responsibility.
- Efforts are being made to intensify cooperation with the federal states in this regard and to link measures of transport maintenance with measures of the federal states.
- The speed of implementation is - as always - dependent on available budgetary funds and personnel.
- The Federal Ministry of Transport and the Federal Ministry for the Environment will continue the initiative on the pilot projects.



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Thank you for your attention!

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